

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Official Action dated October 4, 2005. Claims 1-23 were pending in this application. In the Official Action, claims 12-23 were withdrawn from consideration, and claims 1-11 were rejected. In this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, and claim 9 has been canceled. Claims 1-8, 10 and 11 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-8, 10 and 11 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

\$112 Rejections

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 has been canceled, thereby rendering its rejection moot.

\$103 Rejections

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Miekka et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,540,865 in view of *Xie et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,503,620).

Claim 9 has been canceled, thereby rendering its rejection moot.

Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over *Miekka* and *Xie*.

Applicant's invention, as recited in claim 1, is directed toward a method for forming a colored tape. The tape formed by the method includes a base film, a first layer and a second layer, the first layer being a mixture of a laminating adhesive and a colouring agent. Regarding the formation of the first layer, claim 1, as amended, now recites (among other elements):

using a mixer to mix a laminating adhesive with a colouring agent to form a mixture;
transferring the mixture directly from the mixer to a roller and simultaneously using the roller to apply the mixture to the first surface of the base film so as to form a first layer covering the first surface of the base film

Supporting disclosure for the quoted elements of claim 1 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 3-7; and Fig. 1. As can be seen from Fig. 1, mixer 17 mixes laminating adhesive 15 with pigment 16, and the resulting mixture is transferred directly from mixer 17 to roller 18, which simultaneously applies the mixture to base film 10.

Neither *Miekka* nor *Xie* discloses forming a colored tape that includes a base film, a first layer and a second layer, wherein the first layer is formed as recited by Applicant. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claim 1 is patentable over *Miekka* and *Xie* - taken either alone or in combination - for at least this reason.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-8, 10 and 11 are patentable over *Miekka* and *Xie* for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claim 1.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully addressed, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to discuss any additional objections which he/she might have.

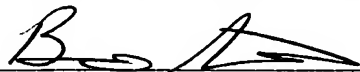
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The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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